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How Rewald empire crumbled

66 Many questions still remain

Commercial News Staff

Ronald R. Rewald's \$12 million empire started falling apart in late July when a federal agency was asked to investigate what was advertised as a long-established international investment company.

The investigation by the Hawaii's Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs caused numerous federal, state and county agencies to also look into the workings of Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham & Wong — now in the hands of a bankruptcy trustee. Among the investigating agencies are the CIA, FBI, IRS, Security and Exchange Commission and Honolulu police.

Investors also filed several suits in hopes of salvaging whatever they can of their funds — some of them life savings — entrusted to the Hawaii investment counselor's company.

Among those filing suit against Rewald was Jack Kindschi, the former CIA station chief in Hawaii, who had invested funds in the company.

Rewald, 41, who surrendered to police following a suicide attempt, remains behind bars in lieu of \$10 million bail on theft charges.